NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) The requisite information has already been conveyed in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Unstarred Question No. 703 on 10-11-1986 in the Rajya Sabha.

(b) While some of the projects have had time over-runs, a number of them have been completed within the scheduled period.

(c) There is no such proposal.

Natural gas grid in Gujarat

2655. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to establish a natural gas grid in Gujarat in view of the abundant availability of natural gas in various oil fields of Gujarat and also in view of the fact that millions of cubic meter of gas is just flared away; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether any techno-economic survey for forming a gas-grid is done; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) and (b) There is a network of pipelines connecting a number of fields and consumers in North and South Gujarat. Flaring of a small quantity of gas is unavoidable due to lower offtake by consumers because of various operational and technical problems at their end. The pipeline network can be expanded in future, wherever necessary, depending on locations of new consumers and producing fields.

Delay in licensing for drug exports

2656. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express of 20th July, 1986 that there have been complaints of delay in licensing for drug exports; if so, what are the reasons for such delays;

(b) whether these delays are due to Government's preference for our exports without full provision for domestic market;

(c) whether Government are aware that various cash compensatory and other export incentives are being used by the exporters to export goods which are in short supply in the country at lower prices in order to cash in or other export benefits; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, no specific case of delay has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No shortages have been reported in respect of drugs currently being exported.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of diesel generating sets

2657. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether imports of Diesel Generating sets are proposed from East European Countries only instead of from West European countries as reported in the Economic Times dated the 29th October, 1986; and

(b) whether experience gained so far gives a clear edge to Diesel Generating sets

from West European countries in terms of economy in running costs which is 50 per cent of the sets from Rupee A/C East European countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) In the light of the foreign exchange constraints, Government have, as a matter of general policy decided to allow imports of D.G. Sets for an Rupee Payment Area, subject to specifications and commercial consideration, on the basis of certification of essentiality and indigenous clearance.

Convention of unions of public sector undertakings

2658. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a convention of the unions of the Public Sector Undertakings held in Delhi on October 21 and 22, 1986;

(b) if so, what were the decisions taken at the convention; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY) : (a) to (c) Information is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indo-Japanese collaboration for high technology

2659. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether he visited Japan for six days during August this year to explore possibilities of stepping up Indo-Japanese collaboration including that in the areas of high technology; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome of his visit in terms of collaborations struck and likely to be struck between the two countries in public sector, private sector and joint sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) *Hon'ble Shri N. D.* Tiwari, the then Union Minister of Industry, visited Japan for a period of six days in the month of August, 1986.

Among various matters, the visit was aimed at apprising the Japanese about the efforts of Government of India to simplify the procedures and improved infrastructural facilities and for exploring potentials for industrial cooperation including in high-tech areas between the two countries.

Industrial cooperation between any two countries is a continuous process and, therefore, it is difficult to quantify the results of a singular visit or effort in this direction.